

REMARKS

As a result of the above amendments, claim 29 has been amended and claims 30-65 have been added. Thus, claims 1-65 are pending. The amendments and additional new claims do not introduce new matter. Entry of the above amendments and reconsideration of this application is requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-29 were provisionally rejected over claims 1-20 of co-pending application serial number 10/807,935. To overcome this rejection, Applicants' enclose a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.321(c) along with the appropriate fee in the amount of \$65.00. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Also in the Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-20, 22-27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Toole (6130602) in addition to the admitted prior art. Further, claims 7, 13, 21 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over O'Tool and the admitted prior art, and further in view of Stamm (4353064). Applicants respectfully assert, however, that these rejections are improper because O'Toole cannot be considered prior art to the pending claims.

In particular, O'Toole was filed on August 29, 1996 and claims priority to a provisional application (Serial No. 60/017,900) that was filed on May 13, 1996. Accordingly, O'Toole cannot be considered prior art to any inventions having a priority before May 13, 1996.

The present application, however, is a continuation-in-part of an application (i.e., Serial No. 08/339,555, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,617,082, copy attached) that was filed on November 15, 1994. Accordingly, O'Toole cannot be cited as prior art if the claimed inventions are supported in the priority documents (i.e., now U.S. Patent No. 5,617,082) because O'Toole was filed after the present application's earliest priority date.

Support for at least the rejected independent claims can be found in the original filing at, among other places, Col. 7, lns. 42-67 and Col. 8, lns 55-67 of now issued U.S. Patent No. 5,617,082. Accordingly, these inventions predate O'Toole and thus any rejection based on O'Toole is improper.

In addition, also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$900.00 to cover the additional claim fee.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all pending claims be passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this further, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

FACTOR & LAKE, LTD.


Edward L. Bishop
One of the Attorneys for the Applicants

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April <u>19</u> , 2005.
 Yolanda Solis